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**To:** Cynthia Keller <ckeller@doc.nv.gov>  
**Date:** 3/18/2014 9:03 AM  
**Subject:** For the Record Submission for the NV prison commissioners' meeting this AM

Good Morning,

TO: Nevada Prison Commissioners for your 03/18/2014 meeting

FROM: Mercedes and Robert Maharis, Las Vegas, NV

#### ESCALATING SEX OFFENDER DEATHS? WHY?

Please read the following Las Vegas Sun article with commentary on the Daniel Ruiz death last week, in case you missed it.

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2014/mar/14/prison-officials-say-inmate-died/>

Sex offender NDOC casualties, 9 dead, that I have learned of so far, keep mounting this winter and spring. If this is not an emergency for your agenda, what is?

Sex offenders are the most hated, and therefore vulnerable, class of prisoners in our prisons, so their classification and housing is critical, to their lives. Isn't this the bottom line? But classification and housing are clearly broken where sex offenders are concerned. When are you going to order this failure to be fixed?

Is our NV sex offender population living under unconstitutional conditions because so many keep dying?

#### PROGRAMS:

Federal Judge Donovan Frank has written a 75 page report on Minnesota sex offender conditions that I hope you will review.

<http://www.startribune.com/politics/statelocal/246389931.html>

We have also seen a triple increase in our sex offenders in our NV prisons in recent years. Logic, facts and reason tell us that that we are also on an unsustainable path here. Yet, we still have no certified programs that the parole board will give credits for here? Why? Stigma? So both MN and NV have failed to adopt a sound, middle ground path to success.

The result? Incalculable destruction to our society both in prison and in our free society both financially and ethically. But, middle ground solutions are available, as Iowa and other states have proven. Iowa has a 3.5% recidivism rate for sex offenders. Why do we have an NDOC reported 23.67% recidivism rate for sex offenders?

#### SAFETY

You have the power to mandate steps to ensure sex offender safety in our prisons, as Iowa does, to implement certified treatment programs to prevent future crimes upon the public upon release, and most are released, and to prevent more deaths of sex offenders in NV prisons, starting today. This failure cannot continue.

How many more will not make it out of our prisons alive? How much more pain and agony will shunning this subject create for sex offenders' children, families, friends? Please help. You will be thanked and appreciated.

Is NDOC following its mission regarding the NDOC sex offender population?  
What do you think?

<http://www.doc.nv.gov/?q=node/192>

Clearly this mission statement is not being met.

How can NDOC leadership allow sex offenders to leave our prisons uneducated and uninformed, with no understanding of why they committed the crimes that put them behind bars? Or keep ignoring their safety in prisons so that they die?

Nevada 23.67% recidivism for sex offenders and 9 (or more) dead in prison this winter is unacceptable? A cold winter and spring indeed.

IOWA IS SUCCESSFUL

Iowa: 3.50% recidivism. Please consult with officials about their successful program. We can learn from their officials' wisdom and adopt their template for success in Nevada before more crimes happen upon release and before more sex offender deaths happen in our prisons.

Please put back the \$7,000,000 (million) tax dollars into the NDOC budget that Director Cox reportedly returned to the general fund in 2013 legislature and use it for programming and safety for this population, safety for all prisoners and staff in general... and for certification to standards of all NV prison institutions, that we have asked for in prior meetings.

This abject failure to support the sex offender population in NDOC demands your full attention and addition to the agenda for the next meeting. We request this issue to be placed on the next agenda.

NDOC's wreckless mismanagement needs your oversight to prevent more death and disaster, for the benefit of all. This is painful, intolerable.

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